

THE
Just Devil

WOODSTOCK.

True Narrative

Several Apparitions, the Frights and Punishments, inflicted upon the

RUMPISH

Commissioners

Sent thither to Survey the MANNOR and HOUSES belonging to His

MAJESTIE.

LONDON, Printed in the Year 1666.

Printed by J. Streater, at the Sign of the Gun, in St. Dunstons Church-yard.

*The Names of the Persons in the ensuing
NARRATIVE mentioned, with others.*

Capt. Cockaine	Capt. Roe.
Capt. Hart,	Mr. ^{Richard} Crooke the Lawyer
Capt. ^{unke} Crook.	Mr. Browne the Sur-
Capt. Carelesse.	veyor.

Their three Servants.

Their Ordinary Keeper, and others.

The Gate-Keeper, with the Wife and Servants.

Besides many more, who each night heard the noise; as Sir Gerrard Fleetwood and his Lady, with his Family, Mr. Hyam with his Family; And several others who lodged in the outer Courts, and during the three last nights, the Inhabitants of Woodstock town, and other Neighbor-villages.

And there were many more, both Divines and others, who came out of the Country, and from Oxford, to see the Glas and Stones, and other stufte, the Devil had brought, wherewith to beat out the Commissioners; the marks upon some vvalls remain. And many, this to testifie

The Preface to the ensuing Narrative.

SINCE it hath pleased the Almighty God, out of his infinite mercy, so to make us happy, by restoring of our native King to us, and us unto our native liberty through him, that now the good may say, magna temporum felicitas ubi sentire quæ velis, & dicere licet quæ sentias. We cannot but esteem our selves engaged in the highest of degrees, to render unto him the highest thanks we can express. Although, surpris'd with joy we become as lost in the performance: when gladness and admiration strikes us silent, as we look back, upon the precipice of our late condition, and those miraculous deliverances beyond expression. Freed from the slavery, and those desperate perils, we daily lived in fear of, during the tyrannicall times of that detestable usurper Oliver Cromwel: he who had raked up such Judges, as would wrest the most innocent language into high Treason, when he had the cruel conscience, so take away our lives, upon no other ground of Justice or Reason (the stones of London streets would rise to witness it, if all their Citizens were silent.) And with these Judges bad such Councillors, as could advise him unto worse, which will less want of witnesses. For should the many Auditors be silent. The press, (as God would have it) hath given it us in print, where one of them (and his conscience keeper too) speaks out, What shall we do with these men? saith he: Eger intemperans crudelem facit medicum, & immedicabile vulnus esse recidendum, Who these men are that should be brought to such Sicilian vespers, the former page sets forth: Those which conceit Utopias, And have their day dreams, of the return of I know not what golden age with the old line. What usage when such a prying Councillor had power, could he expect, who then had published this Narrative, This which so plainly shews, the Devil himself dislike their doings, (so much more bad were they then he would have them be) severer sure then was the Devil to their Commissioners at Woodstock, for he would have them with dreadful noises, to drive them from their work: This Councillor without more ado, would have all who retain'd conceits of Allegiance to their Sovereign, to be absolutely cut off, by the usurpers sword. A sad sentence for a loyal party, to a lawful King. But Heaven is always just, the party is reprov'd, and do acknowledge the hand of God in it, as is rightly apply'd, and as justly sensible of their deliverance: in that, the foundation which this Councillor saith was already so well laid, is now turned up, and what he

Mr. Nathaniel
Fines his
speech before
Oliver Cromwel
and his two
Houses of Par-
liament, the
20. of January
1657.
He being
Cromwells Seal
Keeper.

The Preface to the ensuing Narrative.

calls day-dreams, are come to passe. That old line which (as with him) there
seemed, aliquid divini, so the contrary is now restored. And that rock which
as he saith the Prelates, and all their Adherent, Nay, and their Master and
Supporter too, with all his posterity, have split themselves upon, is no where
to be heard of. And that posterity are safely arrived in their Ports, and Mas-
ters of that mighty Navy, their enemies so much increased to keep them
out with. The Eldest sits upon the Throne, his place by birth-right and de-
scent.

Facatumque regit Patriis virtutibus orbem.

Upon which Throne long may he sit, and reign in peace: That by his just
government, the enemies of ours, the true Protestant Church, of that glorious
Martyr, our late Sovereign, and of his Royal posterity, may be either ab-
solutely converted or utterly confounded.

If any shall now ask, the Why, this Narrative was not sooner published
as nearer to the times wherein the things were acted, he hath the reason
for it, in the former lines, which will the more clearly appear unto his
apprehension, if he shall perpend, how much cruelty is requisite to the main-
tenance of Rebellion; And how great care is necessary in the supporters, to
obviate and divert the smallest things that tend to the unblinding of the
people. So that it needs will follow, that they must have accounted this, a-
mongst the great obstructions, to their sales of his Majesties Lands, the De-
vil not joyning with them in the security. And greater to the pulling
down the Royal Pallaces, when their chapmen should conceit the Devils would
havnt them in their houses, for building with so ill got materials. As we
doubt but he that hath so numerous and confident are the relations made of
the same, though scarce any so totally remarkable as this, (if it be not, that
others have been more conceald) in regard of the strange circumstances, as
long continuances, but especially the number of the persons together, to
whom all things were so visibly both seen and done, so that surely it exceeds
any other, for the Devils thus manifesting themselves it appears evidently,
that there are such things as Devils, to persecute the wicked in this world
at in the next.

Now if so these were added the diverse, real Phantasms (seen at White-
Hall in Cromwells time, which caused him to keep such nightly guards
in and about his bed-chamber, and yet so oft to change his Lodgings. If
those things done at Saint James, where the Devil so stol'd the Criminals
against

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against the sides of the Queens Chappell doors: that some of them fell sick upon it, and others not taking warning by it, kild one outright whom they buried in the place; And all other such dreadfull things, those that inhabited the Royal houses have been affrighted with.

And if to these were likewise added, a relation of all those Regicides and their Abettors, the Devil hath entred into, as he did the Gadarenes swine with so many more of them, who have fallen mad, and dyed in hydeous forms of such distractions. That which hath been of this within these 12 last years in England (should all of this nature our Chronicles do tell, with all the superstitious Monks have writ, be put together,) would make the greater volume, and of more strange occurrents.

And now as to the penman of this Narrative know, that he was a Divine and at the time of those things acted, which are here related, the Minister and School-master of Woodstock, a person learned and discrete, not by-assed with factious humors, his name Widows, who each day put in writing what he heard from their mouths (and such things as they told to have befallen them the night before) therein keeping to their own words, And never thinking that what he had writ, should happen to be made publick, gave it no better dress to set it forth. And because to do it now, shall not be construed to change the story, The reader hath it here accordingly exposed.]

The

the first of these was the year 1525, when the Swiss Cantons of Glarus, Uri, Schwyz, and Unterwalden, declared their independence from the Holy Roman Empire.

The second was the year 1531, when the Swiss Cantons of Lucerne, Uri, Schwyz, and Unterwalden, declared their independence from the Holy Roman Empire.

The third was the year 1536, when the Swiss Cantons of Lucerne, Uri, Schwyz, and Unterwalden, declared their independence from the Holy Roman Empire.

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The Just Devill of **WOODSTOCK.**

THe 16 day of *October* in the year of our Lord, 1649. The Commissioners for surveying and valuing his Majesties Mannor House, Parks, Woods, Deer, Demesnes, and all things thereunto belonging, by Name Captain *Crook*, Capt. *Hart*, Capt. *Cockaine*, Capt. *Carlesse*, and Capt. *Roe* their Messenger, with Mr *Brown* their Secretary, and two or three servants went from *Woodstock* town, (where they had lain some nights before) and took up their lodgings in his Majesties House after this manner: The Bedchamber and withdrawing room, they both lodged in, and made their Kitchen, the Presence Chamber their room for dispatch of their business with all commanders, of the Council Hall, their Brewhouse, as of the Dining room their Woodhouse, where they laid in the clefts of that antient Standard in the High-Park, for many ages beyond memory, known by the Name of the Kings Oak, which they had chosen out, and caused to be dug up by the Roots.

Oct. 17. About the middle of the night, these new guests were first awaked, by a knocking at the Presence Chamber door, which they also conceived did open, and something to enter, which came through the room, and also walkt through the withdrawing room into the Bedchamber, and there walke about that room with a heavy step during half an hour, then crept under the bed where Captain *Hart*, and Capt. *Carlesse* lay, where it did seem (as it were) to bite and gnaw the Matt and Bedboards, as if it would tear and rend the featherbeds, which having done a while, then would heave a while, and rest, then heave them up, again in the bed more high then it did before, sometime on the one side, sometime on the other, as if it had tried which Captain was heavier; thus having heaved some half an hour, from thence it walkt out,

and

and went under the servants bed, and did the like to them; thence it walks into a withdrawing room, and there did the same to all who lodged there: Thus having welcomed them for more then two hours space, it walked out as it came in, and shut the outer door again, but with a clap of some mightie force; these guests were in a sweate all this while, but out of it falling into a sleep again, it became morning first before they spake their minds, then would they have it to be a Dog, yet they described it more to the likeness of a great Bear, so fell to the examining under the Beds, where finding only the Mats scratcht, but the Bed-boards whole, and the quarter of Beef which lay on the floor untouched, they entertained other thoughts.

Of Feb. 18. They were all awaked, as the night before, and now conceived that they heard all the great creaks of the Kings Oak brought into the Presence Chamber, and there thump down, and about round about the room, they could hear their chairs and stools, roll from one side of the room unto the other; and then (as it were) altogether jostled: Thus having done an hour together, it walks into the withdrawing room, where lodged the two Captains, the Secretary, and two servants; here stopt the thing a while, as if it did take breath, but raised a hideous noise, then walks into the Bed-chamber, where lay those as before, and under the Bed it went, where it did heave, and heave again, that now they indeed were put to catch hold upon Bed-posts, and sometimes one of the other, to prevent their being tumbled out upon the ground. When coming out as from under the bed, and taking hold upon the bed-posts, it would shake the whole bed, almost as if a cradle rocked: Thus having done here for half an hour, it went into the withdrawing room, where first it came and stood at the beds feet, and heaving up the beds feet flop down again a while, until at last it heaved the feet so high that those in bed thought to have been set upon their heads; and having thus for two hours entertained them, went out as in the night before, but with a great noise.

Of Feb. 19. This night they awaked, not untill the midst of the night they perceived the room to shake, with something that walks about the bed-chamber, which having done so a while, it walks into a withdrawing room, where it took up a Brasse warming-pan, and returning with it into the bed-chamber, therein made so loud a noise, in their Captains own words, it was as loud and curvish, as a ring of five upon

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ned Bells rang backward, but the Captains, not to seem afraid, next day made mirth of what had pait, and jested at the Levyl in the pan.

Of Feb. 20. These Captains and their company, still lodging as before, were wakened in this night with some things flying about the rooms, and out of one room into the other, as thrown with some great force: Captain *Hart* being in a slumber, was taken by the shoulder and shaken until he did sit up in his bed, thinking that it had been by one of his fellows, when suddenly he was taken on the Pate with a Trencher, that it made him shrink down into the bed-clothes, and all of them in both rooms kept their heads at least within their sheets, so fiercely did three dozen of Trenchers fly about the rooms; yet Captain *Hart* ventured again to peep out to see what was the matter, and what it was that threw, but then the Trenchers came so fast and neer about his ears, that he was fain quickly to couch again: In the morning they found all their Trenchers, Pots and Spits, upon and about their beds, and all such things as were of common use scattered about the rooms; this night there was also in several parts of the room, and outer-rooms, such noises of beating at door, and on the Walls, as if that several Smiths had been at work; and yet our Captain shrunk not from their work, but went on in that and lodged as they had done before.

Of Feb. 21. About midnight they heard great knocking at every door, after a while the doors flew open, and into the withdrawing room entered something, as of a mighty proportion, the figure of it they knew not how to describe; this walkt a while about the room shaking the floor at every step, then came it up close to the bed side, where lay Captain *Crook* and *Carelesse*; and after a little pause, as it were, The bed-curtains both at sides and feet were drawn up and down slowly, then faster again for a quarter of an hour, then from end to end as fast as imagination can fancie the running of the rings, then shook it the beds, as if the joints thereof had crackt; then walkt the thing into the bed-chamber; & so played with those beds there: Then took up eight Peuter-dishes, and bouled them about the room, and over the servants in the truckle beds; then sometimes were the dishes taken up & thrown crosse the high-beds and against the walls, and somuch battered; but there were more dishes wherein was meat in the same room, that werenot at all removed: During this, in the Presence Chamber there was stranger noise of weightie things thrown down, and as they supposed, the clefts of the Kings Oak

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did roul about the room, yet at the wonted hour went away, and left them to take rest, such as they could.

October 22. Hath mist of being set down, the Officers imployed in their work farther off, came not that day to *Woodstock*.

October 23. Those that lodged in the withdrawing room, in the mid st of the night were awakened with the cracking of fire, as if it had been with thorns and sparks of fire burning; whereupon they supposed that the bed chamber had taken fire, and listning to it farther, they heard their fellows in bed sadly groan, which gave them to suppose they might be suffocated, wherefore they call'd upon their servants to make all possible hast to help them, when the two servants were come in, they found all asleep; and so brought back word, but that there were no bed-clothes upon them, wherefore they were sent back to cover them, and to stir up and mend the fire; when the servants had covered them, and were come to the Chimney, in the corners they found their wearing apparel, boots, and stockings, but they had no sooner toucht the Embers, when the firebrands flew about their ears so fast, that away ran they into the other room, for the shelter of their cover-lids, then after them walkt something that stampt about the room, as if it had been exceeding angry, and likewise threw about the Trenchers, Platters, and all such things in the room, after two hours went out, yet stampt again over their heads.

October 24. They lodged all abroad.

October 25. This afternoon was come unto them Mr. *Richard Crook* the Lawyer, brother to Captain *Crook*; and now Deputy-Steward of the Mannor, unto Captain *Parsons* and Major *Butler*, who had put out Mr *Hyans* his Majesties Officer: To entertain this new guest, the Commissioners caused a very great fire to be made, of neer the chimney full of wood, of the Kings Oak, and he was lodged in the withdrawing room with his brother, and his servant in the same room about the midst of the night a wonderful knocking was heard and into the room something did rush, which coming to the chimney-side, dasht out the fire, as with the stamp of some prodigious foot, then threw down such weighty stuffe, what ere it was (they took it to be the residue of the clefts and roots of the Kings Oak) close by the bed-side that the house and bed shook with it: Captain *Cockain* and his fellow arose, and took their swords to go unto the *Crooke*, the noise cease

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at their rising, so that they came to the door and called the two brothers, though fully awaked, and heard them call, were so amazed, that they made no answer untill Captain Cockaine had recovered the boldness to call very loud, and came unto their bed-side; then faintly first, after some more assurance, they came to understand one another, and comforted the Lawyer: whilst this was thus, no noise was heard, which made them think the time was past of that nights troubles, so that after some little conference they applied themselves to take some rest, when Captain Cockaine was come to his own bed, which he had left open, he found it close ly covered, which he much wondered at, but turning the clothes down, and opening it to get in, he found the lower sheet strewed over with trenchers, their whole three dozens of trenchers were orderly disposed between his sheets, which he and his fellow endeavouring to cast out, such noise arose about the room, that they were glad to get into bed with some of the trenchers: the noise lasted a full half hour after this, This entertainment so ill did like the Lawyer, and being not so well studied in the point, as to resolve this the Devils Law-case, that he next day resolved to resigne, but having not dispatcht all that he came for, profit and persuasions prevailed with him to stay the other hearing, so that he lodged as he did the night before.

— *Octob. 26.* This night each room was better furnished with fire and candle then before; yet about twelve at night came something in, that dashed all out, then did walk about the room; making a noise, not to be set forth by the comparison with any other thing, sometimes came in to the bed-sides, and drew the Curtains to and fro, then twerle them, then walk about again, and return to the bed-posts, shake them with all the bed, so that they in bed were put to hold one upon the other, then walk about the room again, and come to the servants bed, and gnaw and the wainscot head; and shake altogether in that room, at the time of this being in doing, they in the bed-chamber heard such strange dropping down from the roof of the room, that they supposed twas like the fall of money by the sound. Captain Cockaine not frighted with so small a noise, (and lying near the chimney) slept out, and made shift to light a candle, by the light of which he perceived the room strewed over with broken glass, green, and some as it were pices of broken bottles, he had not long been considering what it was, when suddainly his candle was hit out, and glass flew about the room; that he

made haste to the protection of the Coverlets; the noise of thundering rose more hideous then at any time before; yet at a certain time all vanished into calmness. The morning after was the glass about the room, which the maid, that was to make clean the rooms swept up into a corner, and many came to see it. But Mr. *Richard Cricke* would stay no longer, yet as he stopt going through *Woodstock* Town, he was there heard to say, that he would not lodge amongst them another night for a Fee of 500.

Octob. 27. The Commissioners had not yet done their work, wherefore they must stay, and being all men of the sword, they must not seem afraid to encounter with any thing though it be the Devill, therefore with pistols charged, and drawn swords laied by their bed sides, they applied themselves to take some rest, when something in the midst of night, so opened and shut the window casements, with such claps, that it awakened all that slept; some of them peeping out to look what was the matter with the windows, stones flew about the rooms as if hurled with many hands, some hit the walls, and some the beds heads close above the pillows; the dints of which were then, and yet (it is conceived) are to be seen; thus sometime throwing stones, and sometime making thundering noise, for two hours space it ceased, and all was quiet till the morn, after their rising and the maid come in to make the fire they looked about the rooms: they found fourscore stones brought in that night, and going to lay them together, in the corner where the glass (before mentioned) had been swept up, they found that every piece of glass had been carried away that night: many people came next day to see the stones, and all observed, that they were not of such kind of stones as are naturall in the countrey thereabout, with these were noise like claps of thunder, or report of Cannon plaated against the rooms; heard by all that lodged in the outer courts, to their astonishment, And at *Woodstock* Town, taken to be thunder.

Octob. 28. This night, both strange and differing noise from the former, first awakened Captain *Hart* who lodged in the bed chamber, who hearing *Roe* and *Br. yn* to groan, called out to *Cockaine* and *Cocke* to come and help them, for *Hart* could not now stir himself; *Cockaine* would faine have answered, but he could not, or look about, something, he thought, stopt both his breath and held down his eye lids. Amazed thus he struggles and kickt about, till he had awaked Captain *Crook* who

half

half asleep grew very angry at his kicks, and multiplied words it grew to an appointment in the field; but this fully recovered *Cockaine* to remember, that Captain *Hart* had called for help, wherefore to them he ran in the other room, whom he found sadly groaning: where scraping in the chimney he both found a candle and fire to light it; but had not gone two steps when something blew the candle out, and threw him in the chair by the bed side, when presently cried out Captain *Careless*, with a most pittifull voice, come hither; O come hither brother *Cockaine*, the things gone of me, *Cockaine* scarce yet himself, helpt to set him up in his bed, and after Captain *Hart*, and having scarce done that to them, and also to the other two they heard Captain *Crook* crying out, as if something had been killing him; *Cockaine* snatched up the sword, that lay by their bed and ran into the room to save *Crook*, but was in much more likelyhood to kill him, for at his coming the thing that pressed *Crook* went off him, at which *Crook* started out of his bed, whom *Cockaine* thought a spirit made at him, at which *Crook* cried out Lord help, Lord save me, *Cockaine* let fall his hand, and *Crook* embracing *Cockaine* desired his reconciliation; giving him many thanks for his deliverance, then rose they all and came together, discoursed sometimes godly and sometimes praied, for all this while was there such stamping over the roof of the house, as if 1000. horse had there been trotting, this night all the stones brought in the night before, and laid up in the withdrawing room were all carried again away by that which brought them in, which at the wonted time left off, and as it were went out, and so away.

Obs. 29. Their businesse having now received so much forwardnesse, as to be neer dispatch they encouraged one the other and resolved to try further, therefore they provided more lights and fires, and further for their assistance prevailed with their Ordinary keeper; to lodge amongst them and bring his Mastive Bitch, and it was so this night with them; that they had no disturbance at all.

Obs. 30 So well they had past the night before, that this night they went to bed confident, and carelesse untill about 12 of the clock; something knockt at the door as with a smiths great hammer, but with such force as if it had cleft the door: then entred something like a Bear, but seem'd to swell more big and walkt about the room, and out of one room into the other; treading so heavily as the floare had

not been ſtrong enough to bear it, when it came into the bed chamber it daſht againſt the beds heads ſome kind of glaſs veſſell, that broke in ſundry pieces, and ſometimes would take up thoſe pieces, and hurle them about the room, and into the other rooms; and when it did not hurle the glaſſe at their heads, it did ſtrike upon the tables as if many ſmiths with their greateſt hammers had been laying on as upon an anvil: ſometimes it thumpte againſt the walls, as if it would beat a hole through; then upon their heads ſuch ſtamping, as if the roof of the houſe were beating down upon their heads, and having done this, during the ſpace (as was conjectured) of two hours, it ceaſed and va- niſhed, but with a more ſierce ſhutting of the doors then at any time before; in the morning they found the pieces of glaſſe about the room, and obſerved that it was much differing from that glaſſe brought in three nights before, this being of a much thicker ſubſtance, which ſe- verall perſons which came in carried away ſome pieces of; The Com- miſſioners were in debate of lodging there no more, but all their buſ- ineſſe was not done, and ſome of them were ſo conſidered as to believe, and to attribute the reſt they enjoyed the night before this laſt unto the Maſſive bitch, wherefore they reſolved to get more company, and the Maſſive bitch, and try another night.

Octob. 31. This night the fires and lights prepared, the Ordinary keeper and his bitch, with another man perſwaded by him, they all took their beds and fell aſleep. But about 12 at night ſuch rapping was on all ſides of them that it awakened all of them, as the doors did ſeem to open; the Maſſive bitch fell fearfully a yelling, and preſently ran ſcerely into the bed to them in the truckle bed; as the thing came by the table, it ſtruck ſo ſierce a blow on that, as that it made the frame to crack, then took the warming-pan from off the table and ſtroke it a- gainſt the walls with ſo much force as that it was beat flat together lid and bottom; now were they hit as they lay covered over head and ears within the bed clothes; Captain *Careless* was taken a ſound blow on the head with the ſhoulder-blade bone of a dead Horſe, (before they had been but thrown at when they peep up and miſt,) *Brown* had a ſhrewd blow on the leg, with the backbone, and another on the head, and every one of them felt ſeverall blows of bones and ſtones through the bed clothes, for now theſe things were thrown at from an angry hand, that meant further miſchief: the ſtones flew in at window as
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shot out of a Gun, nor was the hurle lesse (as from without) then of a Cannon, and all the windows broken down; now as the hurling of the things did cease, and the thing walkt up and down, Captain Cockaine and Hart cried out, *In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, What are you? what would you have? what have we done that you disturb us thus?* No voice replied (as the Captains said, yet some of their servants have said otherwise) and the noise ceased. Hereupon Captain Hart and Cockaine rose, who lay in the Bed-chamber, renewed the fire and lights, and one great candle in a candlestick they placed in the door, that might be seen by them in both the rooms; no sooner were they got to bed, but the noise arose on all sides more loud and hideous then at any time before, insomuch (as to use the Captains own words) it returned and brought seven Devils worse then it self, and presently they saw the candle and candlestick in the passage of the door, dash up to the roof of the room, by a kick of the hinder parts of a Horse, and after with the Hoof trod out the snuff, and so dash out the Fire in the Chimnies; as this was done, there fell as from the ceiling, upon them in the Trucklebeds such quantities of water, as if it had been poured out of Buckets, which stunk worse then any earthly stink could make; And as this was in doing, something crept under the High beds, tost them up to the roof of the House, with the Commillioners in them, until the Testers of the beds were beaten down upon them, and the Bedsted-frames broke under them; and here some pause being made, they all as if with one consent, started up, and ran down the stairs until they came into the Council-Hall, where two sate up a Brewing, but now were fallen asleep, those they scared much with wakening of them, having been much perplext before with the strange noise, which commonly was taken by them abroad for thunder, sometimes for rumbling wind; here the Captains and their company got fire and candle, and every one carrying something of either, they returned into the Presence-Chamber, where some applied themselves to make the fire, whilst others fell to Prayers, and having got some clothes about them, they spent the residue of the night in singing Psalms and Prayers; During which, no noise was in that room, but most hideously round about, as at some distance.

It should have been told before, how that when Captain Hart first rose this night, (who lay in the Bed-chamber next the fire) he found their

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their Book of valuations crosse the embers smoaking, which he ^{thrust} up and cast upon the Table there, which the night before was left upon the Table in the presence amongst their other Papers: This Book was in the morning found a handful burnt, and had burnt the Table where it lay; *Brown* the Clerk said, he would not for a 100 and a 100 l. that it had been burnt a handful further.

This night it happened that there were six Cony-stealers; who were come with their Nets and Ferrets to the Cony-burrows by *Rosamonds* Well; but with the noise this night from the Mannor-house, they were so terrified that like men distracted away they ran, and left their Haies all ready pitched ready up, and the Ferrets in the Cony-burrows.

Now the Commissioners more sensible of their danger, considered more seriously of their safety; and agreed to go and confer with Mr. *Hoffman*, the Minister of *Wotton*; (a man not of the meanest note for life or learning, by some esteemed more high) to desire his advice together with his company and prayers. Mr. *Hoffman* held it too high a point to resolve on suddenly and by himself, wherefore desired time to consider upon it, which being agreed unto, he forthwith rode to Mr. *Jenkinson* and Mr. *Wheat*, the two next Justices of Peace to try what Warrant they could give him for it. They both (as 'tis said from themselves) encouraged him to be assisting to the Commissioners, according to his calling.

But certain it is, that when they came to fetch him to go with them, Mr. *Hoffman* answered, That he would not lodge there one night, for 500 l. and being askt to pray with them, he held up his hands and said, That he would not meddle upon any terms.

Mr. *Hoffman* refusing to undertake the quarrel, the Commissioners held it not safe to lodge where they had been thus entertained any longer, but caused all things to be removed into the Chambers over the Gatehouse, where they staid but one night, and what rest they enjoyed there, we have but an uncertain relation of, for they went away early the next morning; but if it may be held fit to set down what hath been delivered by the report of others, they were also the same night much affrighted with dreadful apparitions, but observing that these passages spread much in discourse, to be also in particulars taken notice of, and that the nature of it made not for their cause, they agreed to the concealing of things for the future; yet this is well known and certain; that the Gate-keepers wife was in so strange an agony in her bed

of Wal-
cot.

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7m.

By which is to
be noted, that
a Presbyterian
Minister dares
not encounter
an Independent
Devil.

The just Devill of Woodstock.

11

bed, and in her bed-chamber such noise (whilest her husband was above with the Commissioners) that two maids in the next room to her, durst not venture to assist her, but affrighted ran out to call company, and their Master, and found the woman (at their coming in) gasping for breath: And the next day said that she saw and suffered that, which for all the world she would not be hired to again.

From Woodstock the Commissioners removed unto *Euclme*, and some of them returned to Woodstock the Sunday seennight after (the Book of *Valuations* wanting something that was for haste, left imperfect) but lodged not in any of those rooms where they had lain before, and yet were not unvisited, (as they confess themselves) by the Devill whom they called their nightly guest, Captain Crook came not untill Tuesday night, and how he sped that night the gate keepers wife can tell if she dareth, but what she hath whispered to her gossips, shall not be made a part of this our Narrative, nor many more particulars which have fallen from the Commissioners themselves and their servants to other persons; they are all or most of them alive, and may add to it when they please, and surely have not a better way to be revenged of him who troubled them, then according to the Proverb, tell truth and shame the Devill.

There remains this observation to be added, that on a Wednesday morning all these Officers went away; And that since them diverse persons of severall qualities, have lodged often and sometimes long in the same rooms, both in the presence with drawing room and bed chamber, belonging unto his Sacred Majesty yet none have had the least disturbance, or heard the smallest noise for which the cause was not as Ordinary as apparent; except the Commissioners and their company who came in Order to the alienating and pulling down the house, which is well nigh performed.

C A short

A short Survey of Woodstock, not taken by any of the before mentioned Commissioners.

THis Noble seat called *Woodstock* is one of the ancient honours belonging to the Crown, Severall Mannors owe suite and service to the place; But the custom of the Countrey giving it, but the title of a Mannor we shall erre with them to be the better understood.

The Mannor House, hath been a large Fabrick, and accounted amongst his Majesties standing houses, because there was alwaies kept a standing furniture; This great house was built by King *Henry* the first, but amplified with the gate house and out sides of the outer court, by King *Henry* the seventh, the stables by King *James*.

About a bow shoot from the gate South-west, remain foundation signs of that structure erected by King *Henry* the second, for the security of Lady *Rosamond*, daughter of *Walter* Lord *Clifford*, which some Poets have compared to the *Dedalian Labyrinth*, but the form and circuit both of the place & ruins, shew it to have been a house & of one pile, perhaps of strength according to the fashion of those times, and probably was fitted with secret places of recess and avenews to hide or convey away such persons as were not willing to be found if narrowly sought after. About the midst of the place ariseth a Spring called at present *Rosamonds Well*; It is but shallow and shews to have been paved and walled about likely contrived for the use of them within the house, when it should be of danger to go out.

A quarter of a mile distant from the King house, is seated *Woodstock Town* new and old: This new *Woodstock* did arise by some buildings which *Henry* the second gave leave to be erected, (as received by tradition) at the suite of the Lady *Rosamond*, for the use of out servants upon the wastes of the Mannor of *Bladen* where is the Mother Church, this is a Hamlet belonging to it, though encreased to a market Town by the advantage of the Court residing sometime near, which of late years they have been sensible of the want of; this Town was made a Corporation in the 11. year of *Henry* the sixth, by Charter with power to send two BURGESSSES to *Parliament* or not, as they will themselves.

Old *Woodstock* is seated on the Westside of the brook named *Glyme* which also runneth through the Park, the Town consists not of above four or five houses, but it is to be conceived, that it hath been much larger

larger, (but very anciently so) for in some old Law Historians there is mention of the Assise at *Woodstock*, for a Law made in a *Micelgemote* (the name of Parliaments before the coming of the Norman) in the days of King *Etheldred*. And in like manner that thereabout was a Kings House, if not in the same place where *Hen.* the first built the late standing pile before his; for in such days those great Councils were commonly held in the Kings Pallaces. Some of those Lands have belonged to the Orders of the Knights Templers there being Records which call them, *Terras quas Rex excambiavit cum Templariis*.

But now this late large Mannor House is in a manner almost turned into heaps of Rubbish: Some seven or eight rooms left for the accommodation of a Tenant that should rent the Kings meadows, (of those who had no power to let them) with several high uncovered Walls standing, the prodigious Spectacles of malice unto Monarchy, which ruins still bear semblance of their State, and yet aspire in spight of envy, or of weather, to shew, *What Kings do build, Subjects may sometime shake, but utterly can never overibrow*.

That part of the Park called the High-Park hath been lately subdivided by Sir *Arthur Heselrig* to make pastures for his breed of Colts, and other parts plowed up. Of the whole saith *Roffus Warwicensis* in *Ms. Hen. 1. pag. 122.* *Fecit iste Rex Parcum de Woodstock, cum Palatio infra predictum Parcum, qui Parcus erat primus Parcus Anglie & continet in circuitu septem Miliaria, constructus erat Anno 14. bujus Regis, aut parum post.* Without the Park the Kings Demesne Woods were, it cannot well be said now are, The Timber being all sold off, and underwoods so crompt and spoiled by that Beast the Lord *Munson* and other greedy Cattel, that they are hardly recoverable: Beyond which lieth *Stonefield* and other Mannors that hold of *Woodstock*, with other Woods, that have been aliened by former Kings, but with reservation of Liberty for his Majesties Deer, and other beasts of Forrest to harbour in at pleasure, as in due place is to be shewed.

FINIS.